

North Yakima Conservation District

Other Accomplishments



NYCD Sponsored WCC Crew
Planting willow stakes at one
of NYCD's restoration sites.



2009 NYCD and WSU Master
Gardeners Plant Sales at the
NYCD Plant Material Facility



Installing pump fish screen in
Cowiche Creek.

2009 Feature Accomplishment

Brown/Ward Diversion Removal and Water Right Transfer Project

Resource Challenge

The Rattlesnake Creek Watershed is a priority for Salmon Recovery within the North Yakima Conservation District (NYCD.) Although there is limited total irrigation use from the creek, the creek and fish resources suffer from irrigation withdrawals, non-compliant fish screening and lack of metering near it's confluence with the Naches River.

Project Summary and Results

NYCD worked with two landowners who share the largest diversion within the Rattlesnake Creek watershed to address their resource challenges. NYCD proposed to address their need for a compliant fish screen by constructing two "dug wells" on their properties. These wells would be constructed to be in hydraulic continuity with the larger Naches River (downstream of the Rattlesnake Creek confluence). The landowner's water rights would then be placed into the States "Trust Water" program as in stream flow in the lower Rattlesnake Creek until their withdrawal from the Naches River. This would eliminate the need for wing dams and fish screens as well as increase flows for passage. NYCD also encouraged the landowner's to convert their on-farm irrigation systems from flood irrigation to an efficient sprinklers system using the NRCS-EQIP cost-share program. After the wells and on-farm irrigation systems were operational the NYCD contracted for the removal of the non-compliant fish screen structure and diversion. The results of this project were a 2 c.f.s. in stream flow right for the Rattlesnake Creek, new efficient on farm irrigation system and full fish protection.



Rattlesnake Creek Diversion Removal and on farm irrigation system



Drilling Wards well".

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More Work To Do

The NYCD's resource priority is to develop programs that maintain agricultural and open space areas for the multitude of benefits they provide from economic stability and habitat to aesthetics and sense of community.



NYCD is developing programs and partnerships to address the threat of wildfire throughout the District, from its rangeland areas to its forested lands.